ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1949.

I took over my appointment in August and as my predecessor died in March there was a considerable period when the work had to be carried out under the guidance of Mr. Smith, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, with occasional visits of a Medical Officer acting only in a part-time capacity. The way in which the work was carried out during this difficult period reflects much credit on Mr. Smith.

It is gratifying to be able to report that there were no serious epidemics during the year and that the Vital Statistics show a satisfactory comparison with the National rates.

The perennial problem of the Thames Side bathing places again arose and at a joint meeting held between representatives of the Eton Urban District Council, Eton College, and the Eton & Windsor Humane Society, the condition of the water in the local reach of the River Thames was discussed.

The Thames Conservators in reply to several enquiries have recently been reported to have declared the Thames to be no less safe now than in past years and said that there is no proof of any ill-effects from anyone bathing in the river. However, as was pointed out at the meeting, samples of the Thames water taken in this area have shown signs of dangerous pollution.

It should be generally realised that the only safe standard for water used for bathing should be the same as that for drinking water, and it is quite clear that any action taken under existing conditions can never bring the river up to the required standard to make it satisfactory for bathing.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Council and Committee for their support and consideration.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate mid-year) - 4,570.

Live Births.

Total.	38.	Male 16.	Female 22.
Legitimate.	38.	" 16.	" 22.
Illegitimate.	Nil.	" Nil.	" Nil.

Birth rate per 1,000 population (excluding boys at Eton College) 8.2.

National rate.....16.7.

Still Births.

Total.	4.	Male 2.	Female 2.
Legitimate.	4.	" 2.	" 2.
Illegitimate.	Nil.		

Still birth rate per 1,000 population..... 0.87.
National rate..... 0.39.

Deaths.

Total. 37. Male. 15. Female. 22.
Death rate per 1,000 population..... 8.0.
National rate..... 11.7.
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth.
(a) From sepsis..... Nil.
(b) From other causes..... Nil.

Death Rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births.

(a) From sepsis.	Nil.	National rate.	0.11.
(b) From other causes.	Nil.	National rate.	0.71.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Total.	Nil.	Male	Nil.	Female	Nil.
Legitimate.	Nil.	"	Nil.	"	Nil.
Illegitimate.	Nil.	"	Nil.	"	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.
All infants per 1,000 live births..... Nil.
National rate.....32.0.

Deaths from Measles (All ages).
Male. Nil. Female. Nil. Total. Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages).
Male. Nil. Female. Nil. Total. Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).
Male. Nil. Female. Nil. Total. Nil.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Heart disease.	4.	12.	16.
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	1.	4.	5.
Other circulatory diseases.	0.	1.	1.
Cancer.	5.	1.	6.
Bronchitis.	3.	1.	4.
Other Respiratory Diseases.	0.	1.	1.
Syphilitic Diseases.	1.	0.	1.
Digestive Diseases.	1.	1.	2.
All other causes.	0.	1.	1.
	15.	22.	37.

Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious out-break of infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever.

No cases of this disease were notified compared with 3 cases in 1948. All cases were of the mild prevailing type.

Diphtheria.

No cases occurred. (There were no cases in 1948).

Poliomyelitis.

2 cases were reported compared with no cases for 1948.

Measles.

29 cases of this disease were reported compared with 2 cases in the previous year.

Whooping Cough.

7 cases occurred compared with no cases in 1948.

Tuberculosis.

There were no notifications of this disease. (There were 3 in 1948).

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Total number of outbreaks.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths.	Organisms and other agents responsible.	Foods involved.
1.	3.	Nil.	Nil detected.	? brawn.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1949.

SECTION B.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year a new 6" water main was laid from Eton to Eton Wick which has resulted in providing the West Ward of Eton with an adequate supply of water at a good pressure. Windsor Corporation have maintained an adequate supply of water to the North and South Wards.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Scheme for conveying the sewage from the Urban District to Slough Corporation Sewage Works at Cippenham was proceeded with during the year. Sewage was satisfactorily disposed of on the Council's Sewage Farm.

During the year the Council gave 6 months notice of their intention to discontinue emptying cesspools at those premises where sewer facilities are available on 31st March, 1950, but where no public sewer is available, the Council will still continue to empty cesspools after that date.

At 31st December, 32 properties were not connected to the public sewer, this figure includes for 19 houses for which no public sewer is available, 4 of which have bucket closets and 17 have cesspools, and of the remaining 13 houses, where a public sewer is available, 8 have bucket closets, and 5 cesspools.

The cesspools were emptied at frequent intervals, and the contents disposed of at the Council's Sewage Farm.

SALVAGE.

Owing to the extreme difficulty of finding satisfactory markets, the Council discontinued all salvage operations during the year. This does not include the private collections of waste paper by the Berkshire Waste Paper Co., also private pig keepers carry out a thorough collection of kitchen waste which provides food for approximately 400 pigs.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council Houses infested.....	Nil.
Number of other houses infested.....	Nil.
Number of Council houses disinfested.....	Nil.
Number of other houses disinfested.....	Nil.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTROLLED PREMISES.

Description.	No. in District.	No. Registered.	No. of Inspections made.
Bakehouses.	2.	2.	9.
Slaughterhouses.	1.	1.	not used.
Cowkeepers.	7.	7.	..... 31.
Dairies (including Milk Retailers).	13.	13.	

OUT-WORKERS.

The latest list of out-workers contains 31 persons engaged with 6 firms.

DISINFECTION.

Rooms in 9 houses were disinfected.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. There were 6 Supplementary Milk Licences issued under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Order, 1936/38.

Meat and other Foods. 7½ stones of fish, 4 cwts. 95 lbs. of meat, 19 tins of meat, 19 tins of fish, 129 lbs. bacon, and 93 tins of tinned foods and preserves have been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

ICE CREAM AND PRESERVED FOODS.

During the year no additional premises were registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream and preserved foods under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, 23 premises are now registered for this purpose. One application was refused as unsatisfactory.

DETAILS OF SANITARY INSPECTION.

Drainage.		Housing.	
New drainage work....	56.	Dampness.....	4.
Existing drainage....	11.	Defective ceilings.....	Nil.
Interviews with owners re drains...	9.	Defective range.....	2.
Blocked sewers.....	1.	Defective well.....	Nil.
Defective drains.....	2.	General defects.....	14.
Deposits of sewerage.	Nil.		

Cowsheds and Dairies.		Miscellaneous.	
Advice to owner.....	Nil.	Inspection of fairs.....	2.
Premises not being used....	Nil.	Inspection of bake-houses.	9.
Dirty Floors.....	5.	Water analyses.....	Nil.
Limewashing required.	7.	Nuisance of pests.....	4.
Roof dirty.....	2.	Nuisance of bugs.....	Nil.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year 1 overall initial sewer treatment was carried out followed by 1 maintenance treatment. 72 cases of infestation were reported or found, all cases of infestation have been treated with satisfaction. 386 rat bodies were recovered on the surface.

HOUSING.

Two licences were issued to private enterprise for new houses.

At December 31st, 1949, the Council had completed the following post war houses:-

12 Prefabricated Bungalows.
2 One bedroom houses.
20 Two bedroom houses.
55 Three bedroom houses.
9 Four bedroom houses.
and had under construction a further
6 Two bedroom houses.
10 Three bedroom houses.

Medical Officer of Health.